

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

EXCISE

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 253, August 23, 6 p.m.

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Control: 13080

Rec'd: August 28, 1952

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ANKARA 5.

Petric of Yugo FONMIN (EMBTel 228, Aug 23) talked to Beam re Albania along fol lines. Yugo info spotty but it considers Rodja position weakened in party dispute and he may be shortly dismissed. Doubted whether Cominform regime wld be over thrown and thought it more probable power wld be transferred to int min Shehu. Petric said Yugo Govt continued refrain from action re Albania which might provide direct Sov intervention creating new Balkan crisis. As in past Yugo giving asylum Albanian refugees and showing its aversion Sov type govt. According Petric Albania's ultimate re its neighbors was Balkan ques which shld be concerted by free Balkan countries directly concerned. He referred to 2 sources disturbing outside influences, one clearly Italy and on reply query he identified other as UK which he claimed did not (rpt not) wish Balkan countries manage their own affairs.

Belgrade press devotes daily attn Albanian form reports re escapees, border incidents, disorders, inspection Yugo frontier by high ranking Albanian Army Officer with Sov instructors (see Mil Attache and CMS reports).

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